291 When Kauwa was young his people wore threshed *riti** bark suspended
[287 from the waist by a *riti* strip. A Vedda belle would sometimes trick
824] herself out in such adornments as a *riti* collar sewn at the back with
nuga† fibre, anklets of red ixora blooms, lotus petals in ear lobes and as
301 garlands round neck and loins, and circlets of strung wild jasmine round
the hair knot. Difficult, though it be, to reconcile this picture with
the wretched specimens one meets to-day, it must be admitted that
Kauwa had no imagination to run loose. An old song tells of Vedda
maidens whose heads were adorned with peacock plumes.

344 Vedda man and wife usually walk the forest together, and accouche-
ments often occur away from home and female assistance; the man then
● 84[does duty for midwife by placing the woman with her back to a rock
260 and two stones to her feet. For nine days after child-birth he feeds her
only on *gonala* yams and the flesh of monitors.

*Antiaris toxicaria.
† Ficus altissima